CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing an antigen comprising:

i) contacting a pyrrole-containing biological compound with one of:

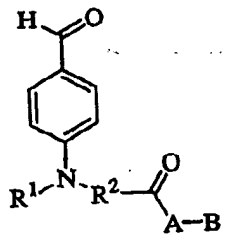
a) an optionally labelled derivatizing agent (bound to, or able to bind with a solid support) wherein the derivatizing agent forms a reaction product with the biological compound, followed by exposure to a detectable molecule which forms a complex with the reaction product; or

b) an optionally labelled derivatizing agent not bound to a solid support, wherein the derivatizing agent forms a reaction product with the biological compound, followed by exposure to a binding agent specific to the biological compound in the reaction product, said binding agent being bound to a solid support; or;

c) a binding agent bound to a solid support, said binding agent being specific to the biological compound and forming a complex therewith, followed by exposure to an optionally labelled, derivatizing agent which forms a reaction product with the biological compound moiety of said complex;

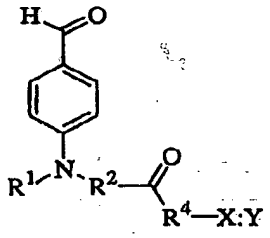
ii) eluting the biological compound from the solid support.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the derivatizing agent is of the following structure in bound form:



wherein R^1 is an alkyl group, R^2 is an alkyl group, A is a linking group and B is a solid support.

3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the derivatizing agent is of the following structure in bound form:



wherein R^1 is an alkyl group, R^2 is an alkyl group, R^4 is a heteroalkyl group, X is a first partner of a strong binding pair and Y is a solid support having a second partner of a strong binding pair on its surface.